REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-36 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, and 25 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the pending claims 1-36 are patentable over the art of record and allowance is respectfully requested of claims 1-36.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Diaz for holding a telephone conference with their representative, Janaki K. Davda, on October 8, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. (EST). Claim 1 and the Srinivasan patent were discussed. Certain claim amendments were discussed, and Examiner Diaz indicated that these claim amendments would overcome the cited art. Applicants' have amended the claims based on the discussed claim amendments.

A. Allowable Claims

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 7, 19, and 31 are now allowable.

B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In paragraph 3, the Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 10, 12-16, 22, 24-28, 34, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Srinivasan (U.S. Patent No. 5,548,506). Applicants traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Claim 1 describes generating a signal when status for the job is changed from a first status to a second status, wherein each status for the job is associated with a single work process for processing the job among multiple work processes, wherein each status refers to a next process to be performed on the job by the single work process associated with the status, and wherein each work process is an application program. That is, each status describes a stage of processing in a work flow. For example, the status of a job may be ready, print, format, etc. (See, for example, Applicants' FIG. 2 and Specification at page 4, lines 25-27). Also, each work process that is associated with one status is an application program. (See, for example,

Specification at page 5, lines 9-10). Each job identified in the job status table 10 comprises an entity on which work is performed under computer operation such as processing data, generating output materials, forwarding data to another location for further processing, printing, working on a material or device, etc. (See, for example, Specification at page 5, lines 3-7).

The Srinivasan patent describes a remind module to sent reminders to tasks leaders of pending tasks, and an inform module to inform task leaders of completion of tasks. The task leaders can then take action. For example, task leaders are allowed to provide change updates such as changes in the task duration or the estimated completion date or to inform on amount of resources actually consumed (Srinivasan, col. 7, lines 55-60). Moreover, in paragraph 5, the Office Action refers to informing project managers and project leaders of changes in the status of the jobs (col. 7, lines 26-34 and 56-61). Task leaders, project managers, and project leaders appear to be humans. For example, a task leader has a name, mail identity, etc. (col. 5, lines 29-30). Also, the Srinivasan patent describes at col. 8, lines 11-12, that the operation is driven by mail messages received from users. By teaching that a task leader, project manager, or project leader receives information and takes actions and that operations are based on mail messages received from users, the Srinivasan patent does not anticipate, but does teach away from, Applicants' claimed job processing by work processes that are application programs.

Additionally, the Srinivasan patent does not associate a single status for a job with just one process. For example, in FIGs. 6 and 7 of the Srinivasan patent, all tasks that are dependent on a task are determined and a reminder is sent for each task.

Moreover, in the Srinivasan patent, the status itself is described as being changed from working to completed (Office Action, paragraph 3), which teaches away from each status referring to a next process to be performed on a job by the single work process associated with the status, and wherein each work process is an application program. That is, each status in Applicants' invention describes a stage of processing in a work flow.

In addition, claim 1 describes identifying a single work process for processing the job based on the second status. At col. 3, lines 6-7, the Srinivasan patent stores information about

whether a predecessor finishes and a task starts, describes an auto multi-project server following up with task leaders by reminding them of start and finish dates and inter-dependencies. At col. 5, lines 31-36, the Srinivasan patent describes that information is stored on whether a predecessor finishes and a task starts, both finish together, or both start together. This does not anticipate identifying a single work process for processing the job based on the status.

Claim 1 describes notifying the work process associated with the second status that one job had its status changed to the second status in response to the signal. Informing a task leader of a status change with a remind module (col. 6, lines 10-17 of the Srinivasan patent) is not equivalent to notifying the single work process associated with the second status that one job had its status changed. Again, a task leader appears to be a human with a name, mail identity, etc. (col. 5, lines 29-30), while Applicants' work process is an application program that is part of a work flow (e.g., Specification, page 5, lines 8-9).

Claim 1 describes processing, with the work process, the job that had its status changed from the first status to the second status. At col. 6, lines 10-17, the Srinivasan patent describes a remind module, an inform module, and project reporting. The Examiner indicates that this cited portion describes the database is updated with the job status change. Applicants are not clear on how this is described by the cited portion of the Srinivasan patent. Regardless, updating a database is not equivalent to processing a job with a work process.

. Claim 1 describes modifying, with the work process, the status of the job after completing the processing of the job. At col. 6, lines 10-17, the Srinivasan patent describes a remind module, an inform module, and project reporting. At col. 6, lines 40-45 describes that a user sends electronic mail on new project information and status updates, and the server sends back electronic mail reminders. This does not anticipate changing a job status with a work process. Additionally, the interaction of the user and server in the Srinivasan patent teach away from the work process.

Independent claims 13 and 25 are not anticipated by the Srinivasan patent for at least the same reasons as were discussed with respect to claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-4, 10, 12, 14-16, 22, 24, 26-28, 34, and 36 incorporate the language of independent claims 1, 13, and 25, respectively, and add additional novel elements. Therefore, dependent claims 2-4, 10, 12, 14-16, 22, 24, 26-28, 34, and 36 are not anticipated by the Srinivasan patent for at least the reasons discussed with respect to independent claims 1, 13, and 25.

In paragraph 5, the Office Action rejects claims 5-6, 8-9, 11, 17-18, 20-21, 23, 29-30, 32-33, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan (U.S. Patent No. 5,548,506). Applicants traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Dependent claims 5-6, 8-9, 11, 17-18, 20-21, 23, 29-30, 32-33, and 35 incorporate the language of independent claims 1, 13, and 25, respectively, and add additional novel elements. In particular, dependent claims 5-6, 8-9, 11, 17-18, 20-21, 23, 29-30, 32-33, and 35 describe further details of how work processes, which are application programs, perform processing on a job based on a status associated with a single work process, wherein the status describes a process that is to be performed..

The Srinivasan patent teaches away from Applicants' claimed job processing by work processes that are application programs by describing a remind module to sent reminders to tasks leaders of pending tasks, and an inform module to inform task leaders of completion of tasks. In the Srinivasan patent, human task leaders, rather than application programs, receive the reminders and take actions.
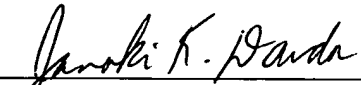
Moreover, in the Srinivasan patent, the status itself is described as being changed from working to completed (Office Action, paragraph 3), which teaches away from each status referring to a next process to be performed on a job by the single work process associated with the status, and wherein each work process is an application program.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-36 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants have not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0563.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact her at (310) 553-7973 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

Dated: <u>October 14, 2003</u>

By: _____

Janaki K. Davda
Registration No. 40,684

Please direct all correspondences to:

David Victor
Konrad Raynes Victor & Mann, LLP
315 South Beverly Drive, Ste. 210
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Tel: 310-553-7977
Fax: 310-556-7984